Appl. No. 10/804,653

Amdt. dated January 3, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of administering an MFP connected to a network

comprising discovering MFPs; building an MFP database comprising data regarding the MFP

discovered; discovering printer drivers; building a printer driver database comprising data

identifying at least one MFP each <u>printer</u> driver is applicable to; and building a relationship

 $database; \underline{wherein\ the\ relationship\ database\ further\ comprises}\ \underline{eomprising}\ \underline{a\ first\ MFP\ record\ and}$

a first printer driver record; and wherein the first MFP record and the first printer driver record

are associated as an allowable combination an associated MFP/driver record for each allowable

combination.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein discovering MFPs comprises using SNMP to

locate and identify an MFP.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein building an MFP database comprises parsing

standard printer MIB data

(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein discovering <u>printer</u> drivers

comprises locating a printer driver file comprising metadata within a printer driver repository.

(Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the metadata is XML metadata.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the metadata identifies each MFP

capable of being associated with each printer driver,

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein building the printer driver

database comprises parsing the metadata,

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein building a relationship database

comprises creating a relational database with a many-to-many relationship linking a primary key

of the MFP database with a primary key of the printer driver database for each allowable

combination of MFP/printer driver relationships based upon MFP model and printer driver

model compatibility.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising constraining the printer

drivers prior to discovering the printer drivers.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising constraining the printer

driver after discovering the printer drivers, and prior to building the printer driver database.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising constraining the

associated MFP/printer driver combinations prior to building the relationship database.

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12. (Currently Amended) A method of administering MFPs comprising discovering and

building an MFP database using SNMP Standard Printer MIB data for each MFP; discovering

<u>printer</u> drivers located on a network; parsing XML data associated with each <u>printer</u> driver to

build a <u>printer</u> driver database; and joining the MFP database and the <u>printer</u> driver database in a

many-to-many relationship using the XML metadata for each <u>printer</u> driver to identify

compatible MFPs for each printer driver to produce an associated MFP/printer driver record for

each allowable combination.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising constraining printer

drivers prior to discovering printer drivers located on the network.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising constraining printer

drivers after discovering printer drivers and prior to building the printer driver database.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising constraining allowable

combinations of associated MFP/printer driver records prior to joining the MFP database and the

printer driver database in a many-to-many relationship.

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- 16. (Currently Amended) A system for associating available MFPs with available <u>printer</u> drivers comprising a general purpose computer means for processing data, wherein the computer processor means is adapted to connect to a network; a first means for discovering MFPs connected to the network; a second means for building an MFP database comprising MFP data; a third means for discovering <u>printer</u> drivers; a fourth means for building a <u>printer</u> driver database; and a fifth means for joining the MFP database with the <u>printer</u> driver database in a many-to-many relationship.
- 17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for associating an MFP with a <u>printer</u> driver comprising a first software routine for discovering an MFP; a second software routine for building an MFP database comprising data regarding the MFP discovered; a third software routine for discovering a <u>printer</u> driver; a fourth software routine for building a <u>printer</u> driver database comprising data identifying at least one MFP the <u>printer</u> driver is applicable to; and a fifth software routine for building a relationship database; wherein the relationship database further comprises comprising a first MFP record and a first printer driver record; and wherein the first MFP record and the first printer driver record are <u>associated as an allowable combination</u> an associated MFP/driver record for each allowable combination.